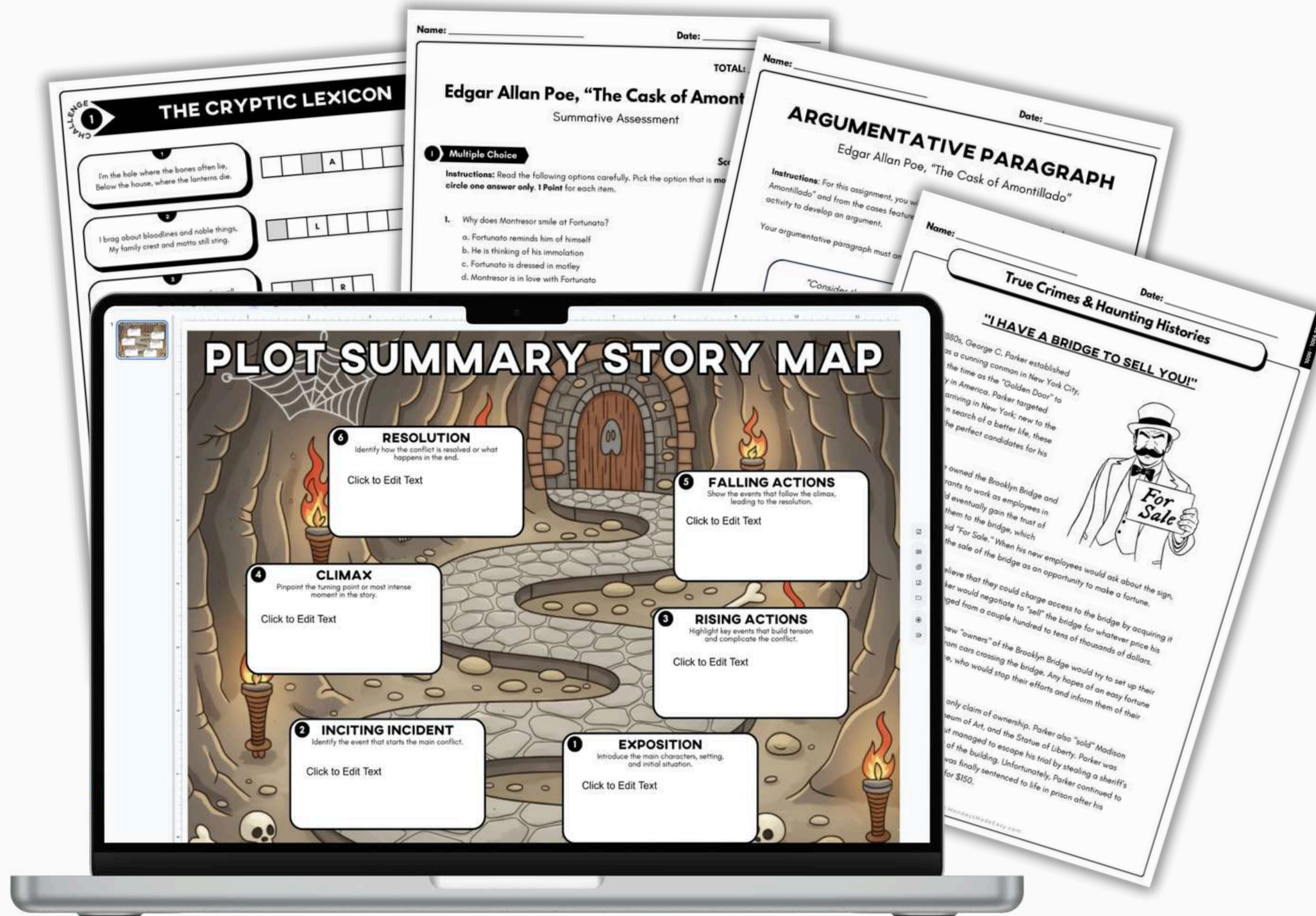


“The Cask of Amontillado” Short Story Unit

Explore Edgar Allan Poe’s classic short story with this modern literary analysis unit!



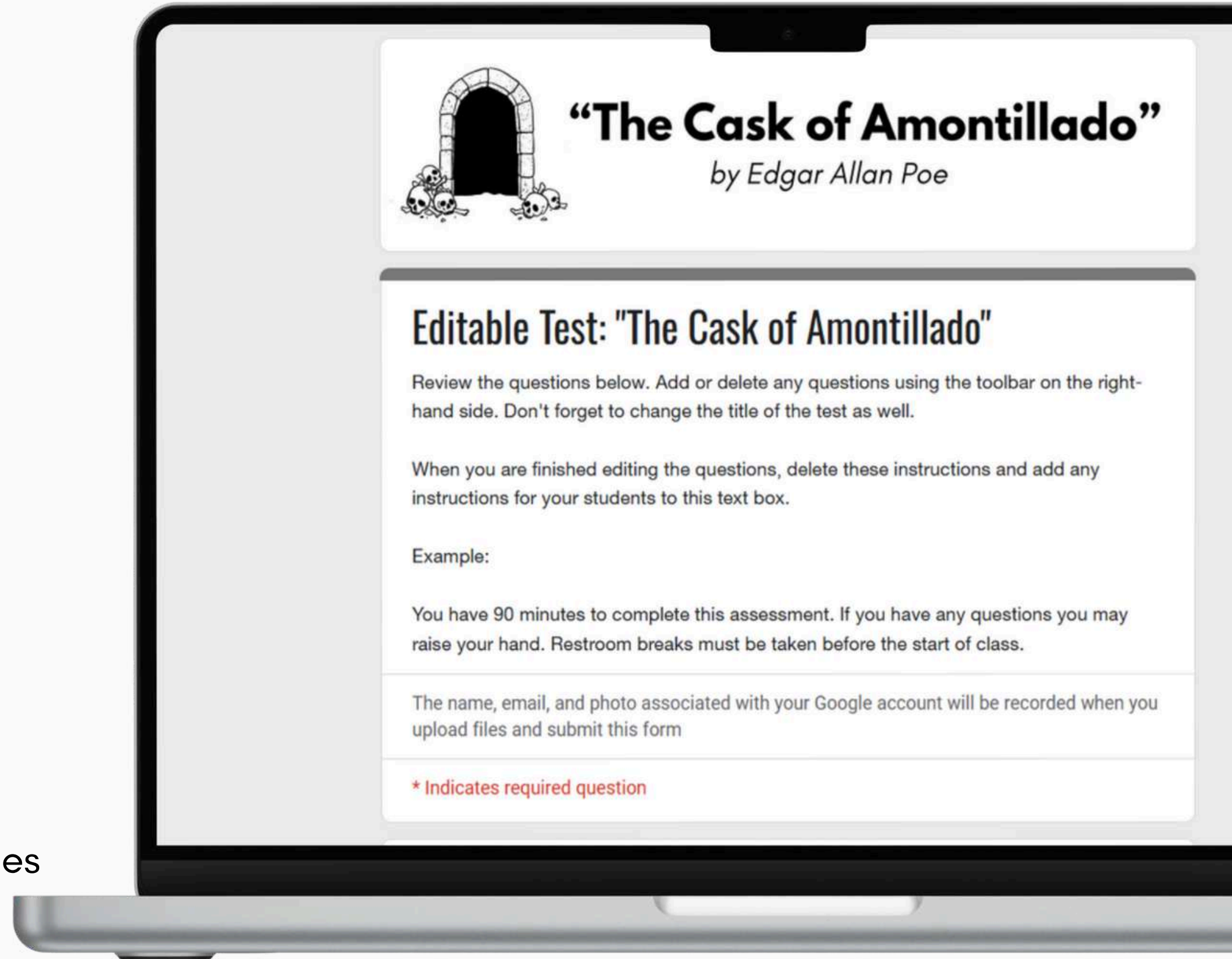
- **Engage students** with interactive activities, including an escape room review and a collaborative plot summary story map
- **Spark critical thinking** with case studies that connect “The Cask of Amontillado” to true crime nonfiction texts
- **Simplify assessment** with editable tools, writing prompts, answer keys, student examples, and ready-to-print rubrics

**Games, literary analysis activities,
true crime activities, and more!**

PURCHASE HERE

Included with this resource:

- ✓ 60+ Essential **Vocabulary Terms**
- ✓ Guided **Reading & Discussion Questions**
- ✓ **Plot Summary Story Map Activity**
- ✓ **Setting and Mood** Analysis Graphic Organizer
- ✓ **True Crime** Nonfiction Case Study Unit
- ✓ **Escape Room** Review Game
- ✓ Editable and Ready-to-Print **Final Test**
- ✓ **Detailed Answer Keys and Mentor Texts**
- ✓ **Teacher Instructions** for how to use these resources



Includes Digital Resources for Google Drive®

Comprehension Questions and Vocabulary Study

Facilitate guided reading and scaffolding for this classic short story

The image displays three overlapping educational worksheets for the story "The Cask of Amontillado" by Edgar Allan Poe. The leftmost worksheet, titled "ESSENTIAL TERMINOLOGY", includes a table for defining words such as "MOULD", "NITER", "OBSTINATE", and "ORNAMENTED". The middle worksheet, titled "GUIDED READING QUESTIONS", contains comprehension questions (12-15) and discussion questions (1-4). The rightmost worksheet, also titled "GUIDED READING QUESTIONS", contains additional comprehension questions (1-4). A blue circular badge on the left side of the image states "INCLUDES ANSWER KEYS!". The worksheets are branded with "MondaysMadeEasy.com" and "All Rights Reserved".

**INCLUDES
ANSWER
KEYS!**

Plot Summary Story Map Activity

Guide your students through the chilling events in the text with this story map activity

Name: _____ Date: _____

PLOT SUMMARY ORGANIZER

Plot Summary Story Map

Instructions: Use this guide to outline the key elements of the story's plot structures.

Name: _____ Date: _____

PLOT SUMMARY STORY MAP

Instructional Handout

Amontillado, a man against someone very carnival, he ending catacombs of rare wine. ing, suspenseful,

the story's plot, ue creates suspense, and reflect on the characters' actions and motivations. This

part of the assignment.

et to organize your thoughts about the six parts of the ens in the beginning, middle, and end of the story.

ep notes to summarize the full plot using the **Story Map** ear summary of each of the six stages of the plot:

characters, setting, and background.

ent sets the plot in motion?

nts that build tension or suspense.

point or most intense moment?

ts lead toward the resolution?

story end?



Name: _____ Date: _____

PLOT SUMMARY ORGANIZER

Plot Summary Story Map

3 Rising Actions

Key Event #1: _____

Key Event #2: _____

Key Event #3: _____

4 Climax

What is the turning point or most intense moment of the story? _____

5 Falling Actions

Name: _____ Date: _____

PLOT SUMMARY STORY MAP

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Includes Mood Informational Handout

Differentiate setting and mood to make these literary concepts easier for students to grasp

Name: _____ Date: _____

LITERARY DEVICE: MOOD

Edgar Allan Poe, "The Cask of Amontillado"

Mood is a literary device that describes the reader's psychological or emotional response to the text. It is an important element of any short story or novel because it establishes a connection with the reader. When the reader feels an emotional response to the text, they are better able to understand the story's overarching themes and underlying messages. Of course, this is only accomplished if the reader's reaction is the type of emotion that the author is intending for them to feel!

One way that the author can establish mood is through the **setting**. The setting is the physical location of the story. The setting is important because it provides a backdrop to the story. Certain elements within the setting can also evoke a certain feeling in the reader through common associations; for example, a story set in a grandparent's kitchen may establish a warm, peaceful mood.

Respond:
Consider the different examples of setting below. Below each one, **write three adjectives** to describe the mood that comes to mind.

THE DESERT	A CEMETERY	THE FIRST DAY OF SPRING	A BIRTHDAY PARTY	A SECRET ROOM

Note that **mood and setting are not the same**. The setting interacts with the characters to carry the plot forward; in contrast, the mood is the emotion that the reader feels in response to the story.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

LITERARY DEVICE: MOOD

Edgar Allan Poe, "The Cask of Amontillado"

Commonly used adjectives to describe mood:

Anxious	Apprehensive	Blissful	Cheerful	Depressing	Dreamy	Ecstatic	Fearful	Foreboding	Gloomy
Hopeful	Hopeless	Idyllic	Joyful	Lighthearted	Lonely	Mellow	Miserable	Mysterious	Nostalgic
Optimistic	Peaceful	Pessimistic	Romantic	Sentimental	Somber	Tense	Uneasy	Warm	Whimsical

Similar to setting, mood can also be evoked through **imagery**. Additionally, the words used to describe the setting - the diction - can have a powerful effect on mood.

- Example: In *The Great Gatsby*, the narrator Nick Carraway states that "the loneliest moment in someone's life is when they are watching their whole world fall apart, and all they can do is stare blankly." In this passage, the author creates a depressing image that might make the reader uneasy, hopeless, or miserable. Additionally, the diction utilizes onomatopoeia to emphasize the long and short "o" sounds and create a sense of hollowness; this choice of words contributes to the depressing mood.

Mood can also be conveyed through the **subject matter** and **outcomes** of the plot.

- Example: If the story is about delivering a speech to a large room of people, the reader may feel anxious leading up to the performance or relieved to learn it goes smoothly. Similarly, emotions exchanged between two characters may elicit a related response from the reader. If a character was arguing with their parents in a story, how would this make you feel?

Finally, the **narrator's attitudes or reactions** can also establish mood. This is especially true for first-person narration. Although the reader experiences the story through the narrator's perspective and has access to their thoughts and emotions, these emotions might not always match the reader's mood.

- Example: If the narrator feels angry, it might elicit an exhilarated or uneasy response from the reader.

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→ Explore **adjectives for describing mood** and practice by applying them to common settings

Explore 11 Quotations from “The Cask of Amontillado”

Students will analyze the author’s use of mood and locate text evidence

Name: _____Date: _____

LITERARY DEVICE: MOOD

Edgar Allan Poe, "The Cask of Amontillado"

QUOTATION Evidence from the text and page number	CLASSIFICATION Setting, imagery, diction, subject matter, or attitude?	ANALYSIS How does this quotation contribute to the mood?
"The niter!" I said; 'see, it increases. It hangs like moss upon the vaults. We are below the river's bed. The drops of moisture trickle among the bones. Come, we will go back ere it is too late. Your cough -"		
"Once more I implore you to return. No? Then I must positively leave you. But I will first render you all the little attentions in my power."		
"For a brief moment I hesitated - I trembled. Unsheathing my rapier, I began to grope with it about the recess; but the thought of an instant reassured me. I placed my hand upon the solid fabric of the catacombs, and felt satisfied."		
"There came forth in reply only a jingling of the bells. My heart grew sick on account of the dampness of the catacombs. I hastened to make an end of my labor. I forced the last stone into its position; I plastered it up."		

Name: _____Date: _____

LITERARY DEVICE: MOOD

Edgar Allan Poe, "The Cask of Amontillado"

QUOTATION Evidence from the text and page number	CLASSIFICATION Setting, imagery, diction, subject matter, or attitude?	ANALYSIS How does this quotation contribute to the mood?

Name: _____Date: _____

LITERARY DEVICE: MOOD

Edgar Allan Poe, "The Cask of Amontillado"

Instructions: Fill out the following chart by analyzing the quotations for their effect on mood. If you're unsure, you can locate the quotation within the story to gain more of an understanding of the context. Then, search for and note additional quotations that establish mood in "The Cask of Amontillado." Explain your reasoning by filling out the corresponding sections of the chart for these quotations.

QUOTATION Evidence from the text and page number	CLASSIFICATION Setting, imagery, diction, subject matter, or attitude?	ANALYSIS How does this quotation contribute to the mood?
"A wrong is unredressed when retribution overtakes its redresser. It is equally unredressed when the avenger fails to make himself felt as such to him who has done the wrong."	Diction Subject matter Attitude	The narrator is using firm diction to communicate his deep desires for revenge. His attitude seems strong-willed. This establishes a tense and foreboding mood.
"I passed down a long and winding staircase, requesting him to be cautious as he followed. We came at length to the foot of the descent, and stood together on the damp ground of the catacombs."	Setting Imagery	The setting depicts underground catacombs. These descriptions evoke a sense of darkness and dampness, contributing to a frightening and chilling mood.
"Putting on a mask of black silk, and drawing a roquelaire closely around my person, I suffered him to hurry me to my palazzo."		

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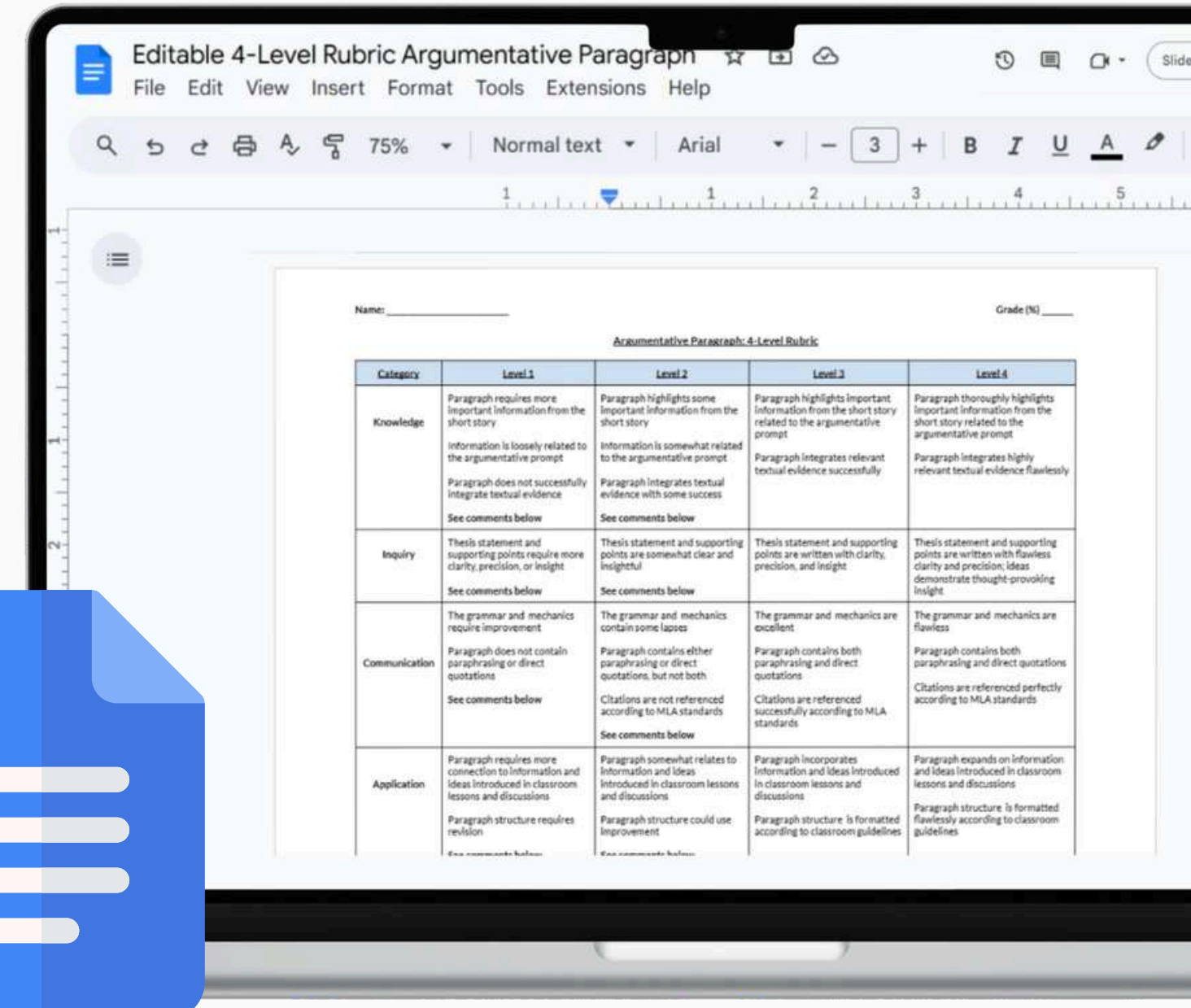
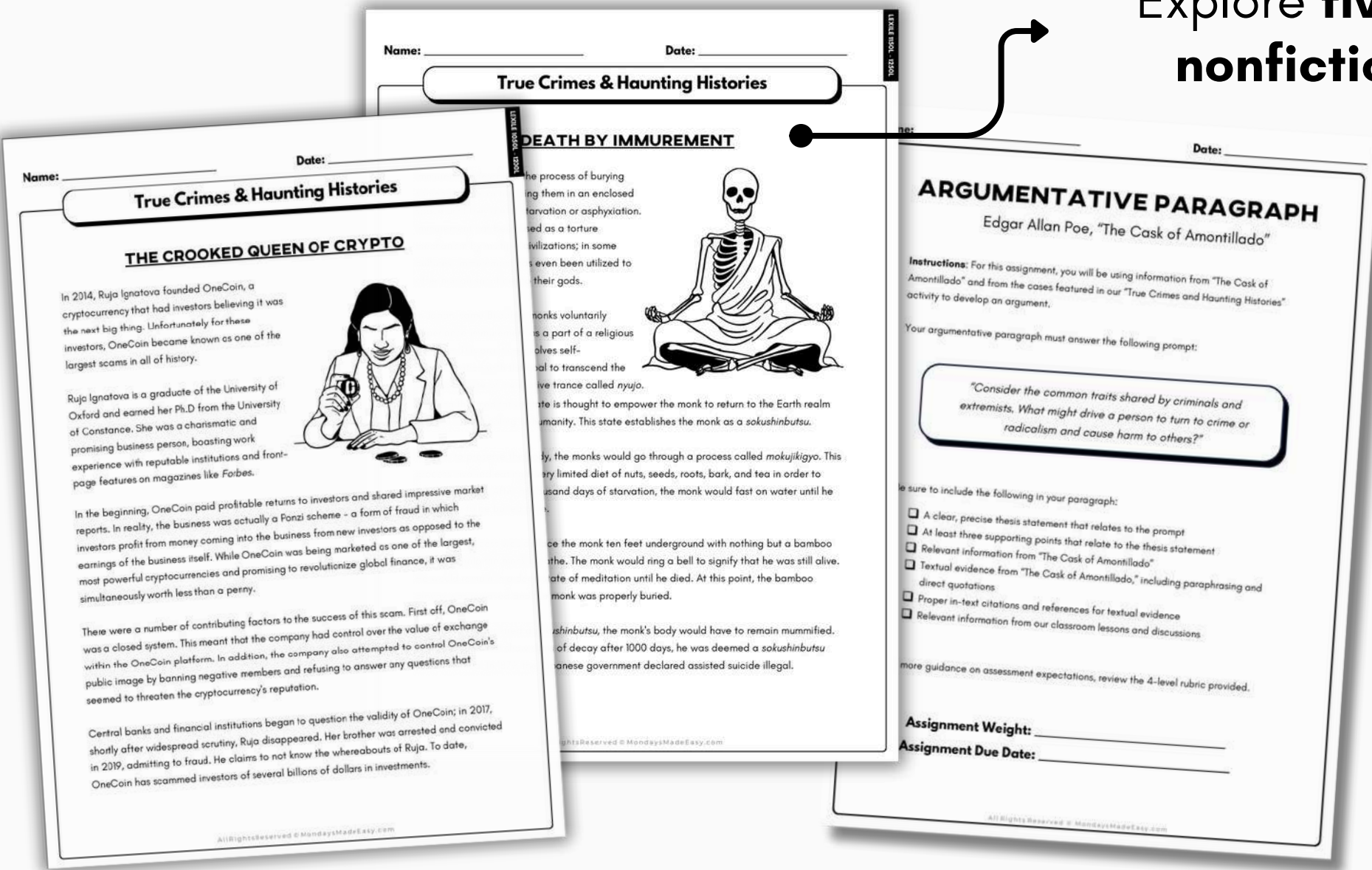
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True Crime Nonfiction Case Study Unit

These true crime cases provide a rich foundation for comparing motives, outcomes, and moral complexity with “The Cask of Amontillado.”

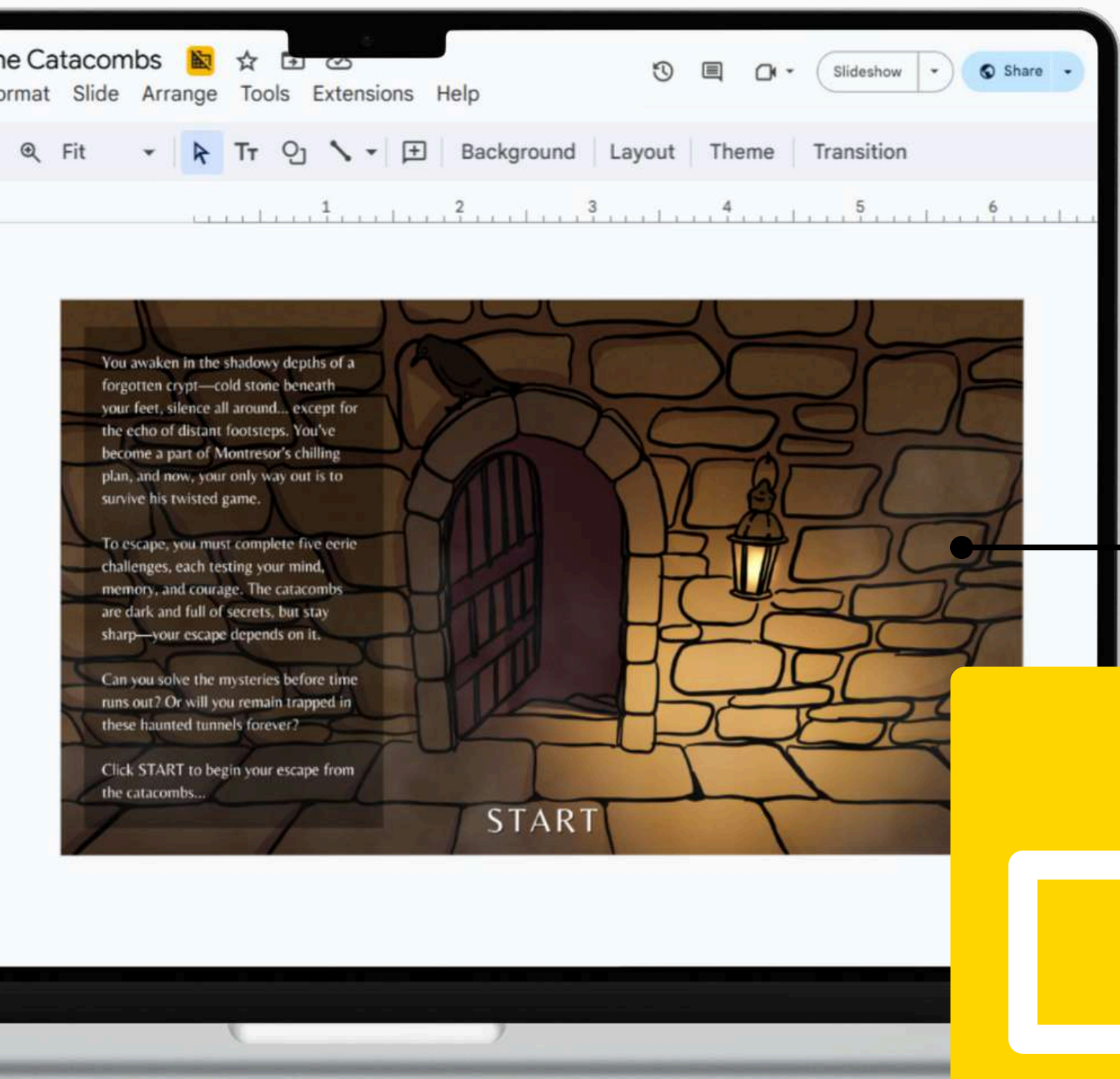
Explore **five true crime nonfiction articles!**



Includes Argumentative Prompt & Rubric!

Escape Room Review Game

Challenge students' critical thinking skills through tasks like decoding encrypted messages, solving riddles, and identifying speakers from the text



CHALLENGE 3

STEPS TOWARD REVENGE

EVENT #1

EVENT #3

EVENT #5

EVENT #7

EVENT #9

EVENT #11

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CHALLENGE 4

THE MORTAR CODE

Fortunato had hurt me a thousand times and I had suffered quietly. But then I learned that he had laughed at my proud name, Montresor, the name of an old and honored family. I promised myself that I would make him pay for this — that I would have revenge. You must not suppose, however, that I spoke of this to anyone. I would make him pay, yes; but I would act only with the greatest care. I must not suffer as a result of taking my revenge. A wrong is not made right in that manner. And also the wrong would not be made right unless Fortunato knew that he was paying and knew who was forcing him to pay.

I gave Fortunato no cause to doubt me. I continued to smile in his face, and he did not understand that I was now smiling at the thought of what I planned for him, at the thought of my revenge.

Fortunato was a strong man, a man to be feared. But he had one great weakness: he liked to drink good wine, and indeed he drank much of it. So he knew a lot about fine wines, and proudly believed that he was a trained judge of them. I, too, knew old wines well, and I bought the best I could find. And wine, I thought, wine would give me my revenge!

It was almost dark, one evening in the spring, when I met Fortunato in the street, alone. He spoke to me more warmly than was usual, for already he had drunk more wine than was good for him. I acted pleased to see him, and I shook his hand, as if he had been my closest friend.

2-9	11-9	17-2	1-2	18-11
9-9	12-2	6-1	17-11	20-1


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CHALLENGE 2


ECHOES IN THE CATACOMBS


MONTRESOR


FORTUNATO










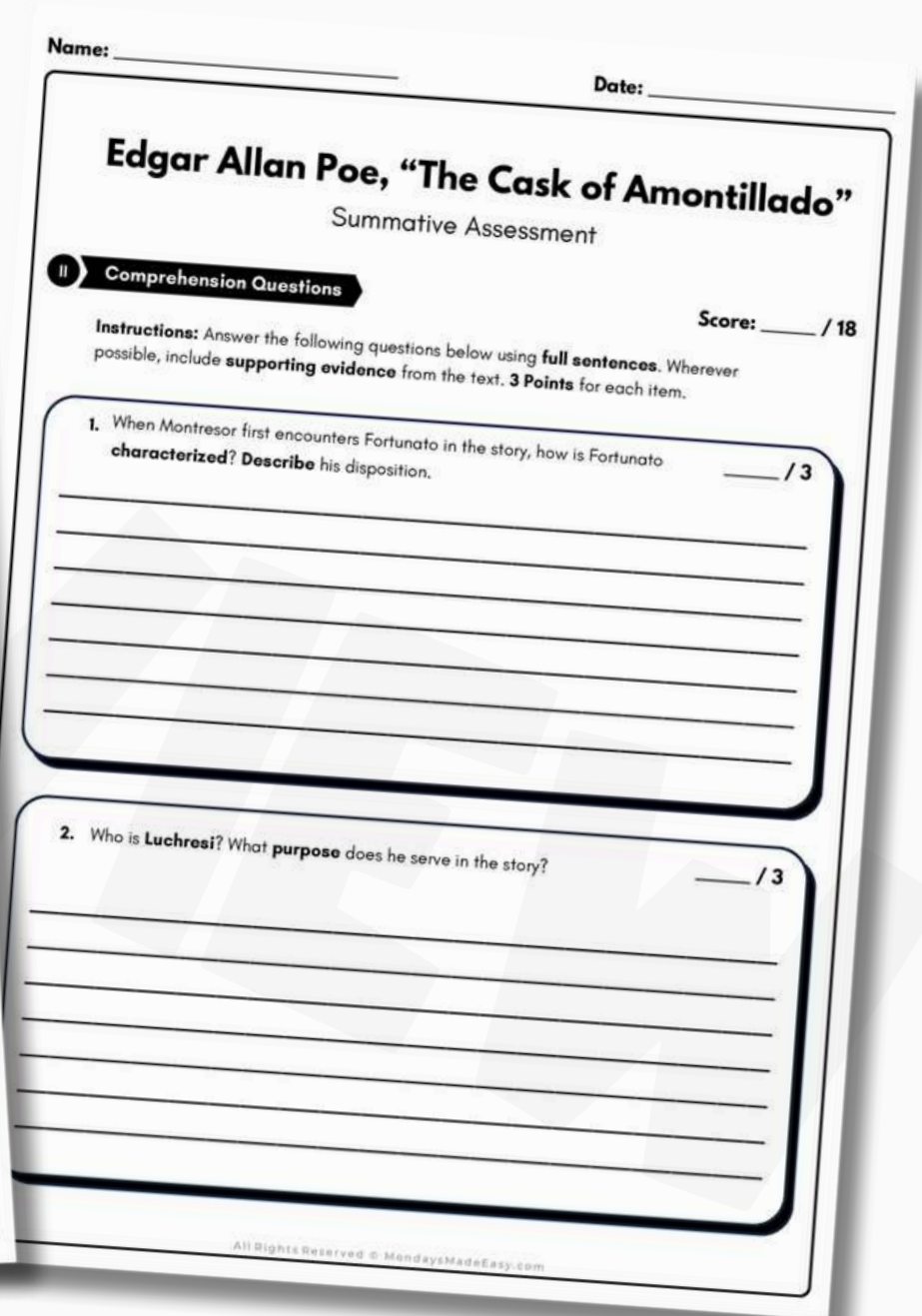
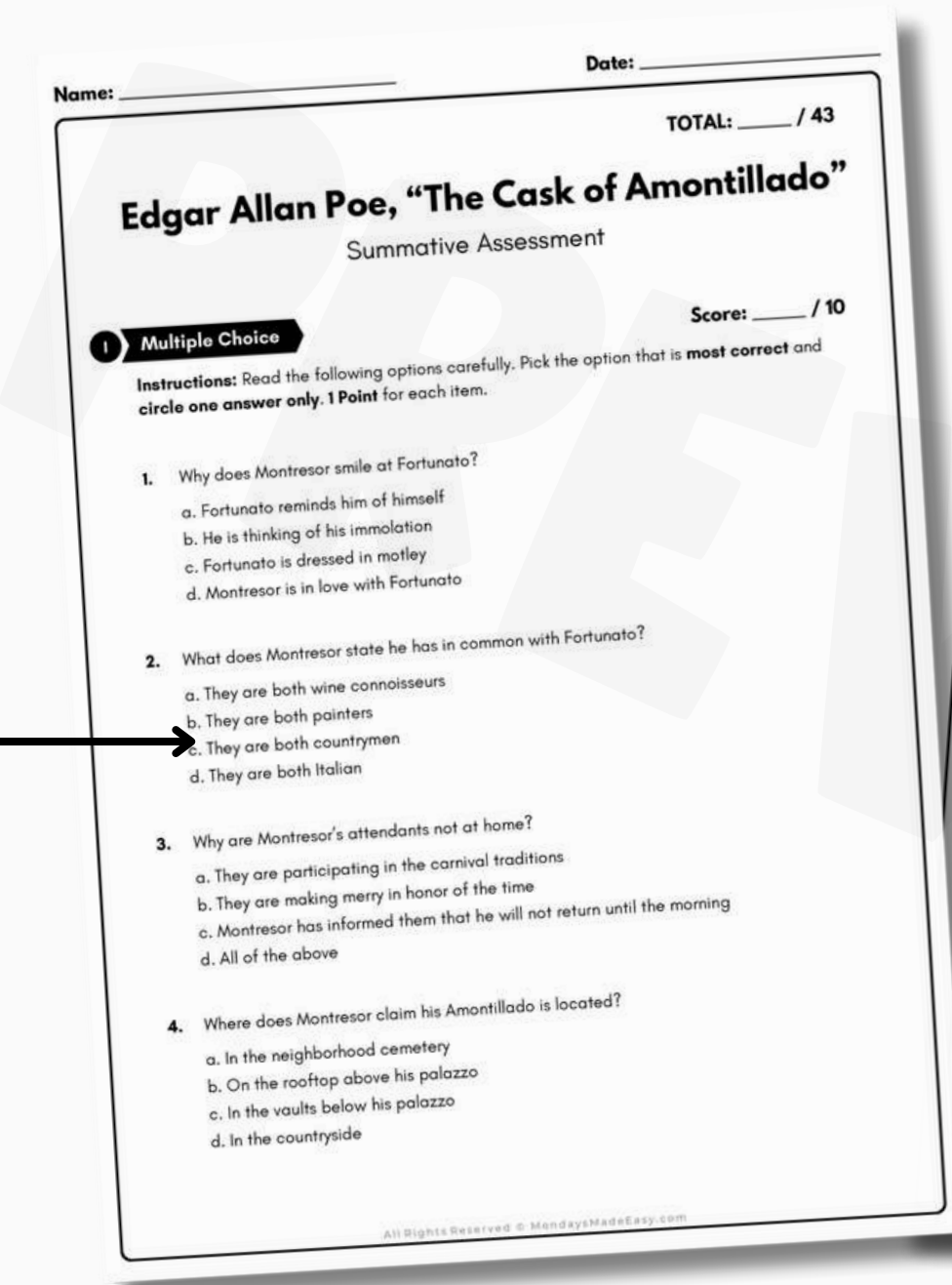
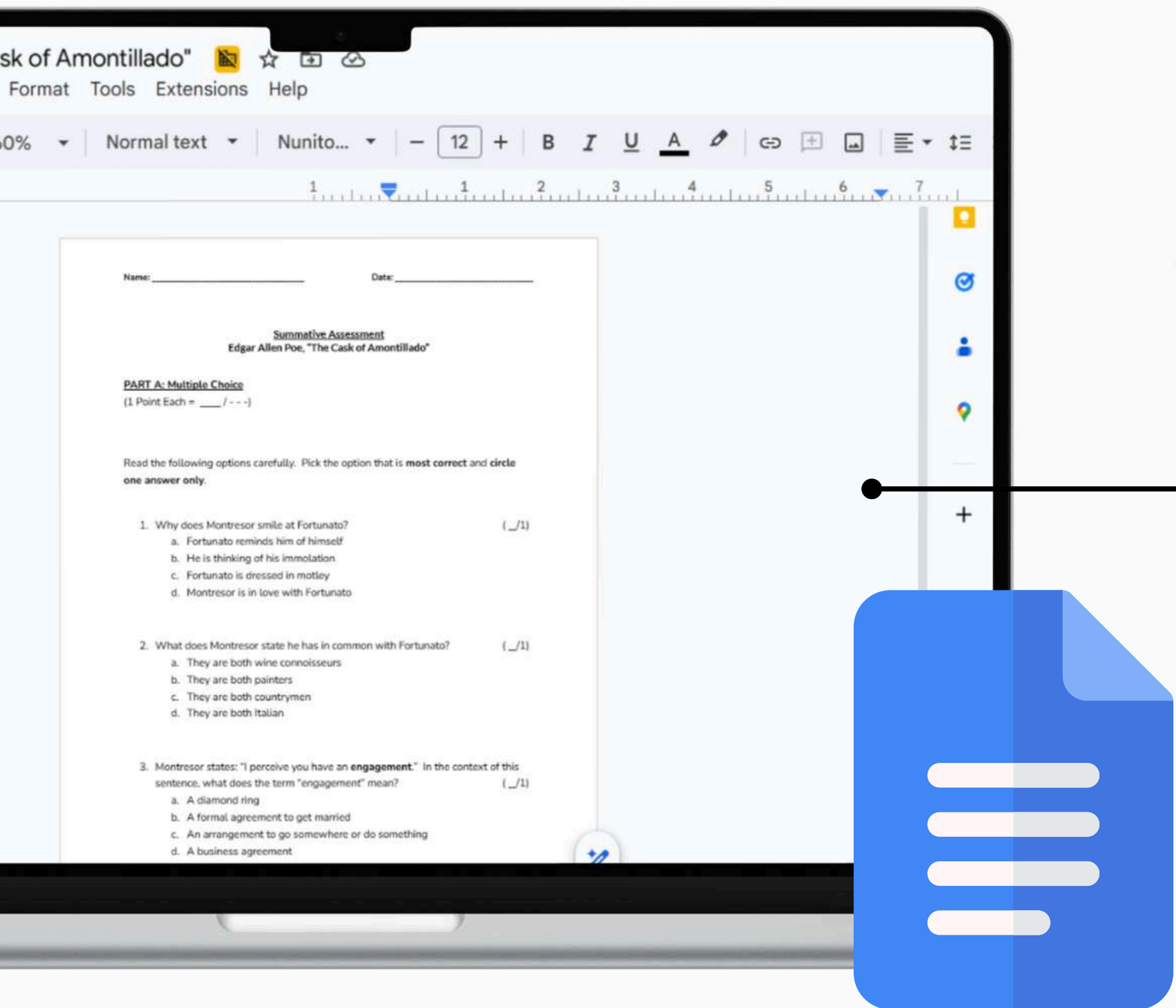




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Editable Test Question Bank

Use the editable format for Google Docs® or the ready-to-print version!



See what others are saying...

Here's what teachers like you are loving about this **"Cask of Amontillado" Short Story Unit!**



Extremely Satisfied

This resource is well-organized, easy to use, and works great in my high school special education classroom. My students stay engaged, and the materials are clear and accessible. I really appreciate the quality and thoughtfulness of this resource.

– Nichole K.



Extremely Satisfied

My students love true crime, so this was the perfect pairing to use with "The Cask of Amontillado"! It was very engaging and they had a good time comparing the short story to real life stories.

– Haley C.